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Vancouver metro

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Your essential daily news | THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2016

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ON PATROL

Controversial gang Soldiers of Odin, accused of racist links and vigilantism, take to Vancouver streets metroNEWS

COURTESY FACEBOOK.COM

Overdose death crisis spurs action

DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE

Vancouver health applying for two drug injection sites

Matt Kieltyka
Metro | Vancouver

Vancouver Coastal Health will apply for two new supervised injection sites soon in response to British Columbia's overdose death crisis, city council heard Wednesday.

Chief Medical Health Officer Dr. Patricia Daly said applications to Health Canada for new injection sites at the Downtown Eastside's Mental Health and Addictions Drop-In Centre (operated by Lookout Emergency Aid Society) and the Heatley Community Health Centre, formerly the Strathcona Mental Health Clinic, (operated by VCH) will be filed within a month.

Officials hope the sites will help Vancouver combat a fentanyl-fuelled overdose crisis that killed 505 people in 2015 and 488 so far this year (as of the end of August) in the province.

As of July, Vancouver accounted for 211 of those deaths, though Daly said VCH has been able to stabilize the death rate while other cities continue to experience an increase in the number of overdose deaths.

Daly hopes the new sites, if approved, can open in early 2017.

"It's a fairly arduous process and I know people are frustrated it has taken this long," she told Vancouver city council during an update on the fentanyl crisis. "It requires us to come up with clinical plans for each site, criminal record checks going back 10 years for staff, site plans and we have to do community engagement for every single site."

The buildings will also require renovations to provide the services, but Daly said those can't begin until VCH get approval to move forward.

There has never been an overdose death at the facility since it opened. It serves 600 to 800 clients daily, and recently began operating 24 hours a day, three days a month, when welfare cheques are distributed, after the health authority noticed a spike in overdoses during that period every month.

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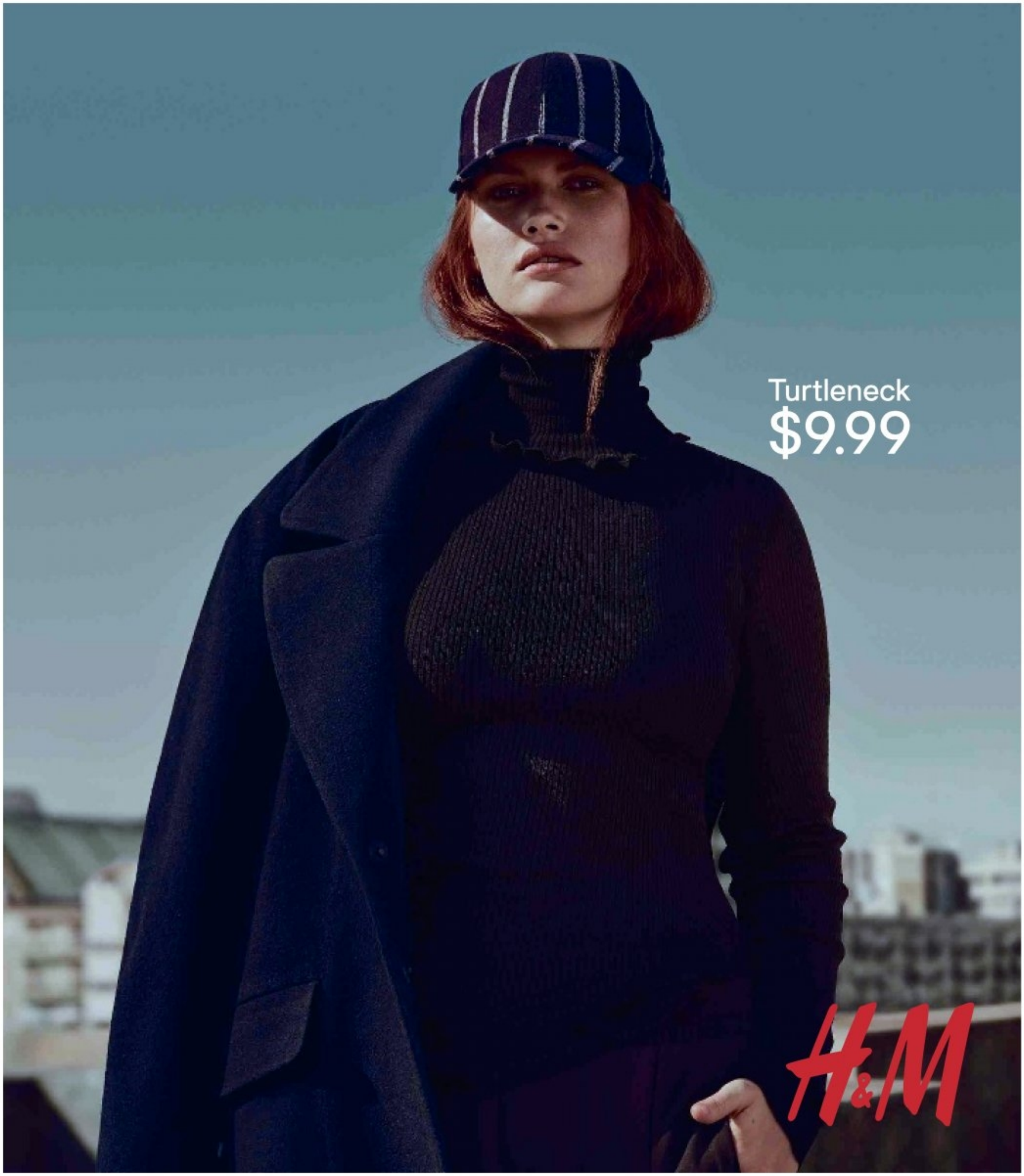
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metro NEWS

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Tensions high in Charlotte over police shooting of black man. **World**

Mom hopes run will lead to sudden-death answers

CHILD MORTALITY

Sarah, age 1, to be remembered in event raising research funds

Jen St. Denis
Metro | Vancouver

A little girl whose sudden death six months ago still remains a mystery to her family will be remembered this Saturday with a charity run in Surrey's Bridgeview neighbourhood.

"The more that I read about SIDS and SUDC, the more interested I became," said Megan Carbonetto. "How come nothing has changed in the last 20 years — because really nothing has changed in the last 20 years. There haven't been very many advancements."

On the morning of March 3, Carbonetto discovered her 14-month-old daughter, Sarah Rivera, unresponsive in bed. The stress of that day's tragic events brought on the early delivery of the baby Carbonetto was carrying; daughter Zipporah was born later that day.

The coroner later told Carbonetto an autopsy had failed to discover the cause of death. While Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) is well-known, children over the age of one also sometimes die of Sudden Unexplained Death in Childhood (SUDC).

Between one and 10 in every 100,000 children in the province die of unknown causes each year, according to Dr. Shubhayan Sanatani, head of cardiology at B.C. Children's Hospital and an expert in the phenomenon.

Carbonetto would like to see a single point of contact in place to guide parents whose children die suddenly of unknown causes through the grieving process, helping to arrange the funeral and assisting them to navigate the various government agencies.

For instance, she wishes she'd had more help planning the funeral.

"You're in such a state of shock, you're not thinking," she said. "I didn't have someone there to say maybe a poem, or maybe someone would like to say this or the kids would like to say something."

Carbonetto has two older daughters, aged 6 and 8, and the family has received the strongest support from the school they attend, as well as Bridgeview Community Centre, which will host the run on Saturday. She hopes the event, which will raise funds for SIDS and SUDC research at B.C. Children's Hospital, will give the community a chance to remember Sarah.

"My daughter was very much a part of the lives of many of the kids in the neighbourhood," Carbonetto said. "So we thought of a way to get the community involved."

WITH FILES FROM THANDI FLETCHER

Megan Carbonetto holds a photograph of her 14-month-old daughter Sarah Rivera, who died of unknown causes. The Surrey mom has organized a charity run to raise money for Sudden Unexplained Death in Childhood (SUDC). JENNIFER GAUTHIER/METRO

> **Really, nothing has changed in the last 20 years.**
> Megan Carbonetto

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SCHOOLS

95% use rate not needed for cash

Wanyee Li
Metro | Vancouver

The Vancouver School Board will no longer need to work toward a 95 per cent utilization rate in order to receive funding for seismic upgrades, Education Mike Bernier announced Wednesday.

The school district is in the midst of deciding which schools to close in its Long Range Facilities plan, which was largely based on reaching the 95 per cent utilization rate set by the province.

But Bernier said that number was intended to be a guideline and highlighted the funding the district has already received despite not meeting the target.

"Within Vancouver alone, there are $200 million on nine projects.... It is evidence of the fact that the province, regardless of what's been said around 95 per cent utilization, we've been taking those investments for the betterment of students, teachers in our schools."

Bernier emphasized that the district is "not off the hook."

"School districts need to make good financial decisions. Does that mean schools need to be amalgamated and closed? Absolutely it does."

Vancouver School Board chair Mike Lombardi told Metro the board would meet to discuss how the announcement will affect its potential school closure list.

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Weekend foot patrol denounced

VIGILANTISM

Anti-racists link Soldiers of Odin to white supremacists

David P. Ball
Metro | Vancouver

A citizen patrol group accused of vigilantism and ties to racists held a street patrol in downtown Vancouver over the weekend.

A recently formed B.C. chapter of Soldiers of Odin — an international network founded late last year by a Finnish white supremacist convicted of racially motivated assaults — held a "day of action" in the Okanagan and Vancouver.

According to videos posted to Soldiers of Odin B.C.'s 1,000-member Facebook page, the patrol involved less than a dozen members in black jackets adorned with the initials "S.O.O." and the distinctive Norse logo.

"We got to watch every crevice," said a narrator of one video, which had been viewed nearly 1,500 times by publication time. "I never seen so many needles in my life going down that f—ing alley.

"Here we are in downtown Vancouver … the boys are doing their thing."

Members of Soldiers of Odin B.C., a volunteer citizens organization accused of racist ties, patrol during a provincial day of action over the weekend. SOLDIERS OF ODIN B.C./FACEBOOK

But an expert on white supremacist groups said people shouldn't be fooled, and the group's activities overseas and Viking imagery — several racist groups in the U.S. have "Odin" in the name, while others embrace Norse mythology — should set off alarm bells.

"They've been caught in association with members of far-right groups," said Alan Dutton, with the Anti-Racism Canada collective. "It's a notorious group that's been anti-Muslim especially, because of the reaction to the flood of refugees into Western Europe as a result of the wars in the Middle East. There have been serious incidents of violence with some of the members."

But the group denies accusations of racism. After concerns arose over branches popping up in Edmonton, Saskatoon and Hamilton, its national president Joel Angott said, "We are a neighbourhood watch organization with no racist agenda," in a posting on Soldiers of Odin Canada's 6,000-member Facebook page.

> **"It's a notorious group that's been anti-Muslim especially.**
> Alan Dutton, Anti-Racism Canada

The group's volunteer patrols, he continued, "focus on the safety of women children and the elderly. They also look for hazards and unsafe conditions in parks and playgrounds."

Such statements "should be taken with a grain of salt," Dutton warned. The group's charter also decries "demonizing anything that has to do with European culture" as well as "the allowing of illegal aliens" in Canada and "accepting refugees from countries that hate us."

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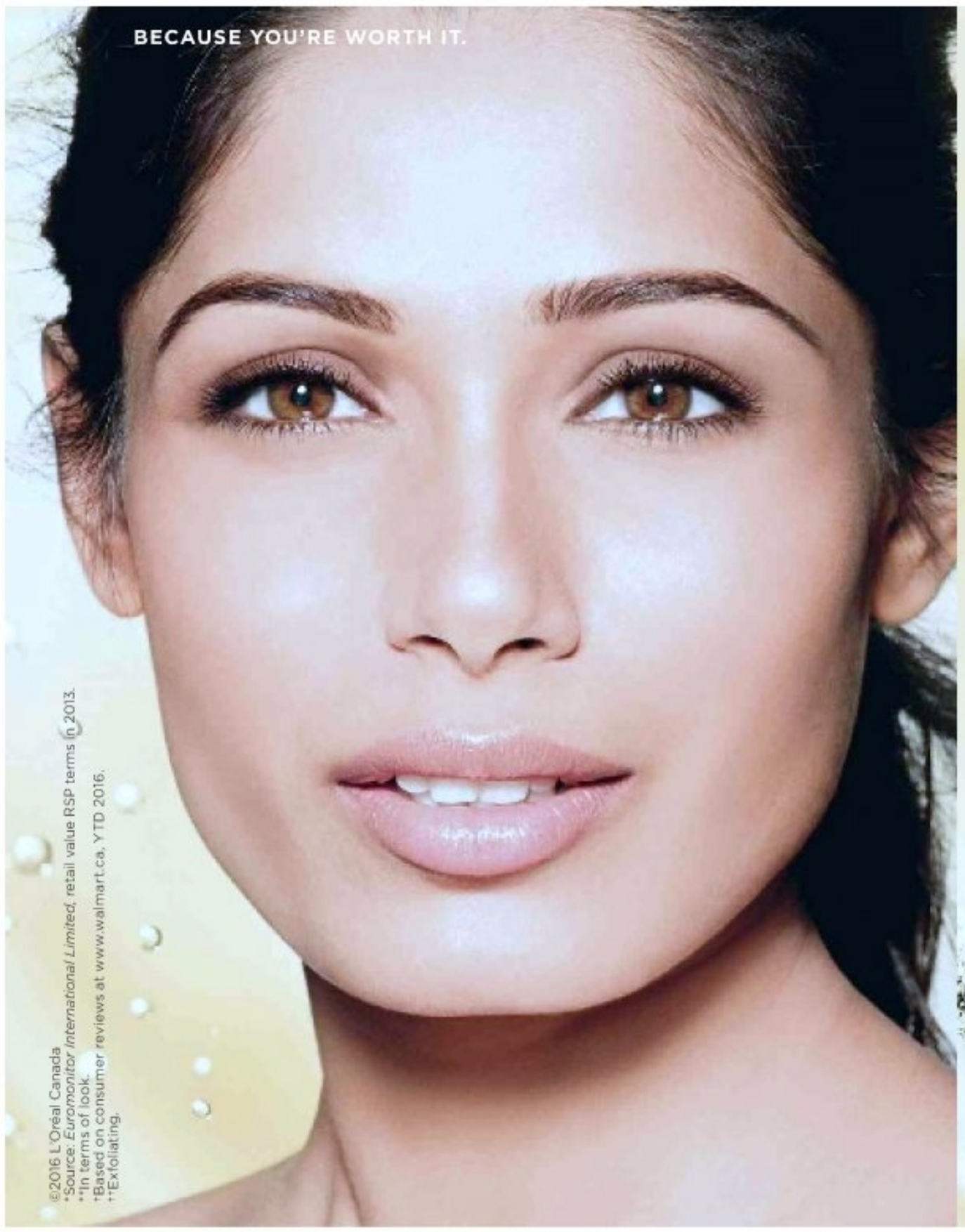

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FENTANYL CRISIS

'Little good news to share': Chief coroner

Matt Kieltyka
Metro | Vancouver

British Columbia Health Minister Terry Lake will take any small victory he can as the province continues to struggle containing a fentanyl overdose crisis.

The province announced Wednesday that 488 people have died of drug overdose so far this year (as of the end of August), a grim figure on pace to surpass 2015's total of 505. However, August was the first month during the crisis that the number of deaths have decreased over the same month last year.

Vancouver Coastal Health also reported that, at 78 deaths as of the end of July, it has at least managed to stabilize its overdose death rate so far in 2016 and has not seen an increase in deaths.

Those gains are being attributed largely to the distribution of take-home naloxone kits to drug users throughout B.C. and the harm reduction services available in Vancouver, such as Insite.

"We are somewhat cautiously optimistic," Lake said of the officially declared provincial health emergency. But Lake acknowledged the province still faces an uphill battle as government, health authorities and law enforcement agencies try to contain the epidemic.

Public Safety Minister Mike Morris said fentanyl has crept into nearly all street drugs sold on the streets and the province's chief coroner, Lisa Lapointe, said the most common overdose fatalities involve cocaine users unaware the drug is laced with fentanyl.

Lake has written to the federal government to repeal a bill that significantly restricts health authorities' ability to set up supervised injection sites, while Morris is lobbying for escalating criminal charges for the importation and sale of fentanyl, and making pill presses and other drug manufacturing equipment more difficult to obtain.

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An actor that is believed to be Ryan Reynolds is dressed as Deadpool on a movie set in downtown Vancouver in 2015.
JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

New space for B.C. film

JOBS

Explosion of TV production means boom for local industry

Jen St. Denis
Metro | Vancouver

In B.C.'s film industry, there have been ups and there have been downs. Right now, the sector is riding so high that both local companies and Hollywood studios think it's a good time to invest heavily in building out new production space.

"It's one of those periods in time, and they don't happen very often, where you say, you know what? We can look out on the horizon, we think it's going to be good for the next X number of years and it promotes additional growth of infrastructure," said Peter Leitch, president of North Shore Studios, which operates a studio in North Vancouver and another in Burnaby.

"We're looking to expand one of our existing facilities, which is great, and we are looking at other opportunities."

Leitch pointed to a new production space in Surrey that has been leased and built out by Skydance Media, the Santa Monica company that produces the Mission Impossible, Star Trek and Jack Reacher movies. That facility (the former Pacific Newspaper Group printing press) officially opened Tuesday, and will be home to a sci-fi show called Altered Carbon, which will be on Netflix.

"And there are other facilities on the Surrey-Langley border that are sprouting up," Leitch said. "Those are good things because we're spreading the industry out."

Studio space has been added to downtown Vancouver recently as well: the former Canada Post building is being leased for film production as the building awaits redevelopment.

"It's very unusual to have a studio downtown in a city," said Prem Gill, CEO of Creative BC, noting that the former mail sorting station provides ample parking space.

In total, there are currently over 50 purpose-built or converted studios in Metro Vancouver, Gill said.

When feature films like Deadpool are shot in Vancouver, they attract a lot of attention. But much of the activity happening in B.C. is TV work, Gill said, describing Vancouver as a "TV town" that has befitted from an explosion in television production worldwide.

In B.C., film has been on the rebound ever since the loonie began dropping against the American dollar in 2014.

Warner Brothers, which is shooting over 10 television shows here (including Supergirl, Supernatural, DC's Legends of Tomorrow and The Flash), employs 4,000 people alone, while the entire industry provides 18,000 direct jobs, Gill said.

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REGULATION

B.C. to reduce charges on payday loans

The British Columbia government is taking steps to cut the interest rates charged on so-called payday loans.

The maximum allowable charge for a payday loan in B.C. will drop from $23 to $17 for every $100 borrowed, starting Jan. 1, 2017.

The Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General says the changes mean B.C.'s borrowing rates for the high-cost, short-term loans will be the second-lowest in Canada.

Prior to 2009, charges for payday loans in B.C. were as high as $30 for every $100 borrowed.

The ministry says in a news release that regulators will also consult with credit counsellors, advocacy organizations, loan providers and others as the province seeks improved protection for consumers who rely on payday loans.

The 30-day consultation will examine issues ranging from consumer education and information, to development of innovative lower-cost loans that could shift consumers away from more expensive options.

> **"I saw for myself the devastating effect these short-term, high-interest payday loans have on our communities."** Tyler Shymkiw

"I saw for myself the devastating effect these short-term, high-interest payday loans have on our communities. This is a positive step towards improving the lives of families and working people," says Maple Ridge councillor and former Maple Ridge food bank chairman, Tyler Shymkiw, in the news release.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

An artist's rendering of a 'locals first' condo development approved for Horseshoe Bay. COURTESY WESTBANK

Condo touts 'locals first'

WEST VANCOUVER

Development in Horseshoe Bay gives area residents dibs

Wanyee Li
Metro | Vancouver

People who live or work in West Vancouver will get first dibs on the 159 units in the Sewell Marina development, thanks to a 'locals first' policy.

City council negotiated with the developer, Westbank, to ensure it will only sell units to people who either live or work in West Vancouver for the first 30 days, and only to people who live or work in the Lower Mainland for the 30 days after that, according to West Vancouver Coun. Nora Gambioli.

It was the right move for the close-knit community, she said.

"The feedback from the public was at least 80 per cent or more in favour of the development, which is really high compared to what we hear most of the time."

Council, who unanimously voted in favour of the six-building project Monday, also negotiated a 5 per cent discount off the advertised price for West Vancouver residents.

All buyers will have to sign a statutory declaration that they or a family member will live in the unit and that they will not flip or reassign the property, according to Westbank's presentation slides to council.

Westbank could not be reached in time for comment. The locals-first idea played a big part convincing the community to accept what will be the district's biggest housing development in recent history, said Gambioli, a life-long West Vancouver resident.

"I think it did (help) — I think it made it easier to swallow for sure."

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A mobile emergency alert was sent to New York area residents, warning of a man suspected in two local bombings. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Wireless alerts could come soon

PUBLIC SAFETY

Association says it would take a year and $25M to establish system

Mobile phone alerts warning Canadians of life-threatening emergencies in their area could be available within two years, wireless industry representatives say.

A version of the mobile alerts, in place in the United States since 2012, was used on Monday to warn New York-area residents of Ahmad Khan Rahami, the 28-year-old suspected in a pair of weekend bombings.

New York Mayor Bill DeBlasio said afterwards the mobile warnings were "very helpful in this instance, getting that message out broadly, putting everyone on alert."

The alerts are similar to brief text messages, explaining in fewer than 90 characters what the emergency is and what action, if any, should be taken. Users receive a visual notification on their screen and a ring that is specific to emergency alerts — if their cellphone's sound is on.

The Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) is examining the possibility of wireless public emergency alerts warning Canadians of severe weather, emergencies involving crime, as well as environmental or industrial threats.

A handful of federal departments are funding a pilot project in Durham Region to gauge the technical function of, and user response to, the alerts.

Beginning in April, approximately 20 mock alerts were sent to designated group of mobile users, comprising about 100 emergency responders, students, small business-owners and people with special needs such as hearing impairment.

After each message, recipients were asked to complete a survey about their experience. The final test alert was sent Wednesday.

Data collected during the pilot project will be turned over to the CRTC and a working group of federal and provincial emergency officials, who will determine the next steps, said Tyler Cashion, owner of a telecom business contracted to help lead the test program.

The Canadian Wireless Telecommunications Association, which represents Bell, Rogers, Telus and nearly 100 other wireless carriers and technology firms, said the public alerting system should be mandatory for all Canadian wireless carriers.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

IN BRIEF

Teacher faces hearing for alleged vulgar comments

An Ontario high school teacher is facing a disciplinary hearing for allegedly making of inappropriate comments to students. According to a document from the Ontario College of Teachers, English teacher Jennifer Elizabeth Green-Johnson repeatedly made obscene comments to students, asking a teen to "lick me where I fart" and calling a student a "bloody pedophile."

REBECCA WILLIAMS/METRO TORONTO

Cheeky smuggling case wrapping up

Haley Ritchie
Metro | Ottawa

The bizarre case against an employee accused of smuggling gold out of the Royal Canadian Mint in an unusually cheeky way wrapped up in an Ottawa courtroom this week.

Leston Lawrence, 35, is accused of smuggling $180,000-worth of gold "pucks" past security in his rectum while working as a refinery operator at the mint.

Surveillance tapes, wire transfers, Lawrence's financial records and a "vaseline cocoa butter jar" were all are submitted as evidence during the trial, according to court records.

After being arrested, Lawrence was forbidden from communicating with the staff at Ottawa Gold Buyers on Carling Avenue, where he sold the stolen pucks for cash.

Defence lawyer Gary Barnes was incredulous that Lawrence would be able to fool the security system at the mint. Those systems have been updated, according to a spokesperson.

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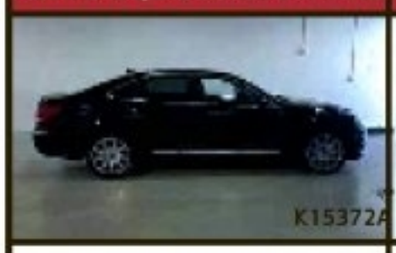
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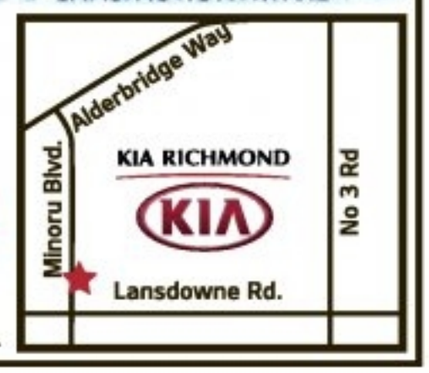
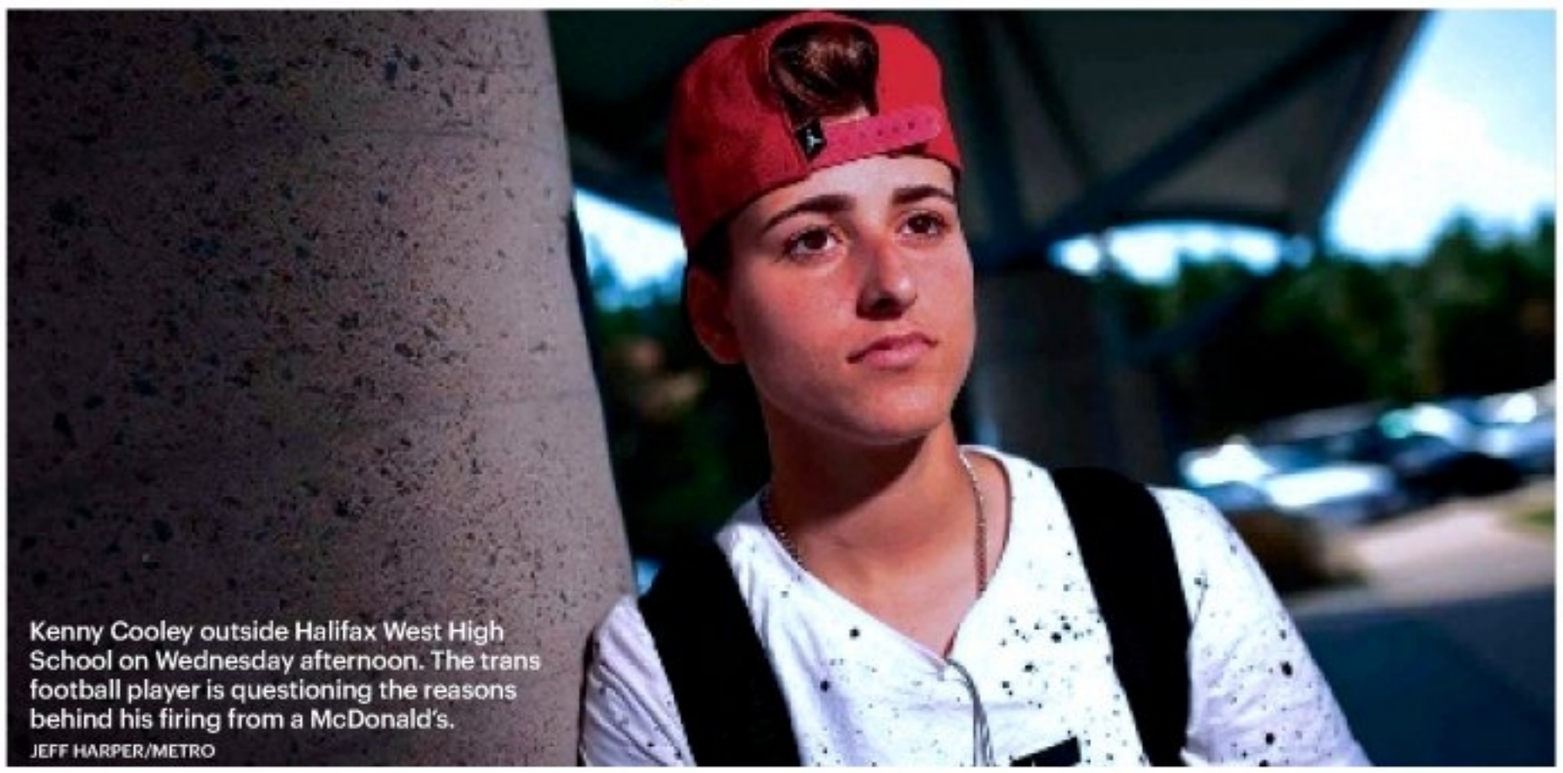


It 'wasn't a good feeling'

metro EXCLUSIVE

Trans football player says job lost in part to media attention

Haley Ryan
Metro | Halifax



Kenny Cooley outside Halifax West High School on Wednesday afternoon. The trans football player is questioning the reasons behind his firing from a McDonald's.
JEFF HARPER/METRO

A Halifax high school football player who made headlines around North America for being the first trans player on his team says he was let go from McDonald's, partly due to that media attention.

Kenny Cooley, a 17-year-old student at Halifax West, said two days after his story first appeared in Metro on Sept. 12 he was called into the McDonald's on the Bedford Highway where he'd worked since April.

Cooley said he was told that his employment was being terminated "one because of the media, and two because we had some schedule mishaps," he said during an interview Wednesday.

When asked about Cooley's dismissal on Wednesday, a McDonald's spokesperson forwarded an emailed statement from the owner operator, Bob Smith.

Smith said he was "shocked by these allegations as they are simply not true."

"I have been a local business owner for more than 25 years and I pride myself on operating an open and diverse workplace. At my restaurants, inclusion has always been an important part of my work culture. Our philosophy has always been to 'bring your whole self to work.' By doing so, we encourage an open and accepting workplace that allows everyone to contribute their personal best," Smith's statement said.

After first told by Metro, Cooley has had his story picked up by international outlets like ABC and The Washington Post, as well as national ones like CTV National and The Canadian Press, and gotten positive feedback since then, he said.

It "wasn't a good feeling" to be let go for those two reasons last Wednesday, Cooley said.

"It was like a really uncomfortable setting … it kind of made me feel really bad," he added.

As for the scheduling mishap, Cooley said he had thought it was resolved when it happened two weeks ago. It revolved around Cooley having a schedule that read a different shift time than the one his McDonald's manager had.

Metro went to the Bedford store on Wednesday evening and asked to speak to the restaurant manager, but was told by a staff member she was "unavailable" to speak, but they were working on a statement with their lawyers.

Soon afterwards Metro received the statement from Bob Smith.

Cooley said his mother is thinking of taking his case to the Labour Board to see whether it qualifies as wrongful dismissal, and he agrees.

It's not that he wants money or compensation per se, Cooley said, but would like an apology from the store and McDonald's.

"It's not right," Cooley said.

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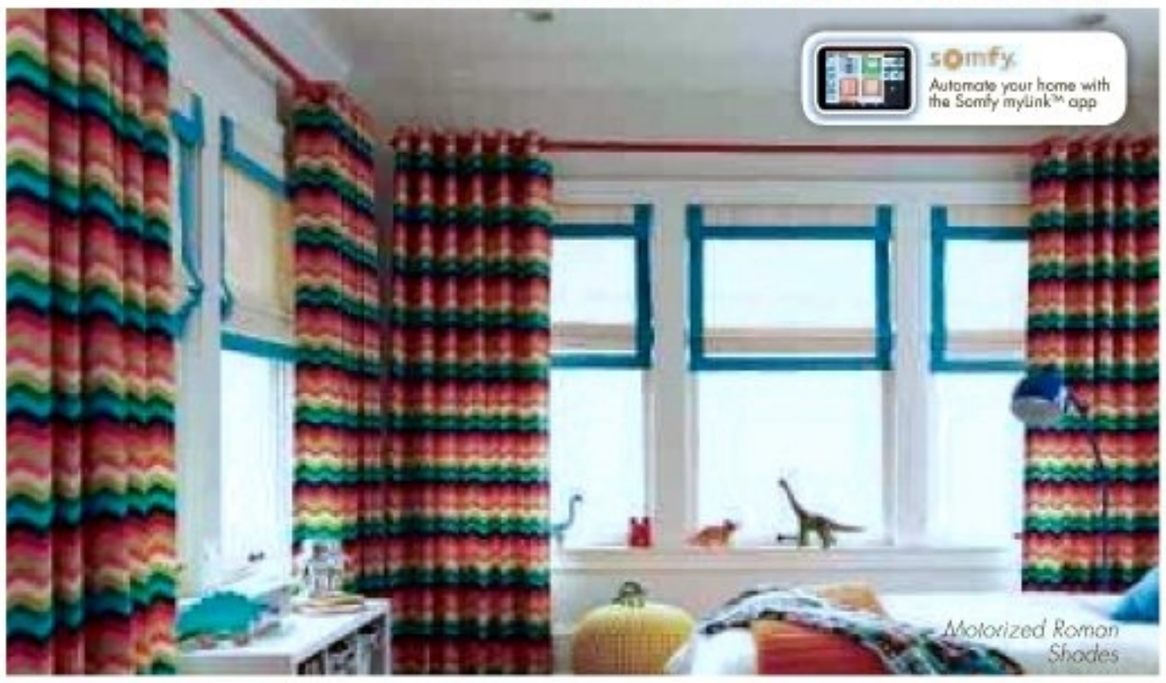

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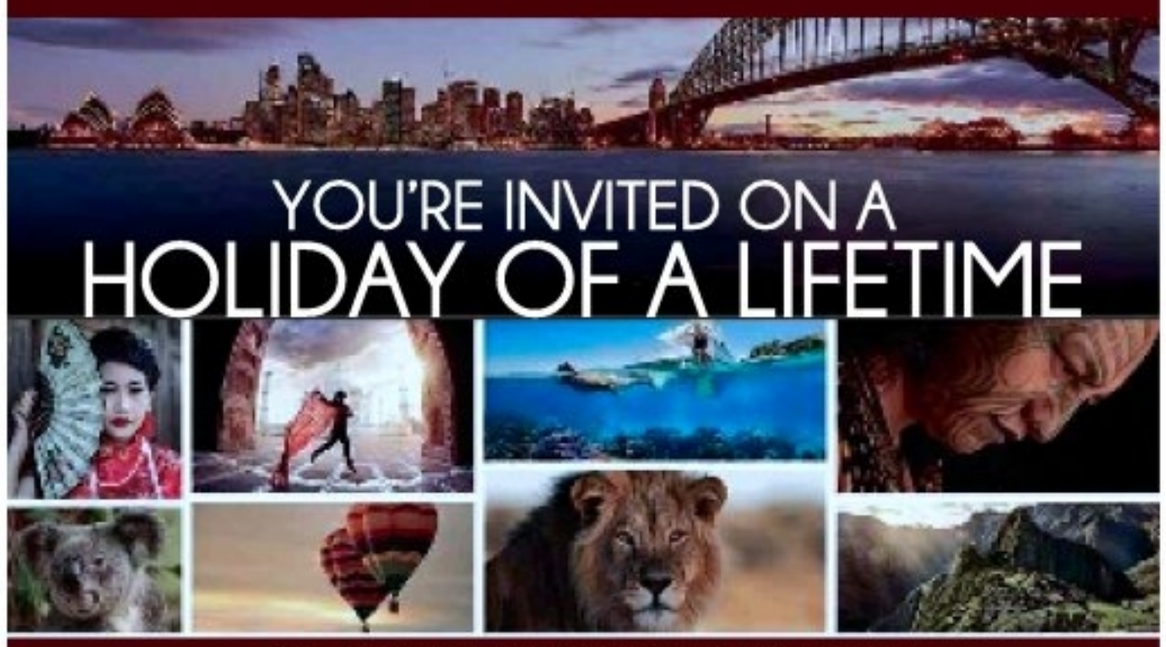

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1 tax haven, 3 banks, 2K offshore companies

A new leak of tax haven data lists firms that may be legitimate, but the sheer number has drawn the attention of watchdogs concerned about the relationship Canada's banks have forged with island tax havens TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Three of Canada's big banks have registered nearly 2,000 offshore companies and private foundations in the Caribbean tax haven of the Bahamas, according to newly-leaked corporate records obtained exclusively in Canada by the Toronto Star and the CBC/Radio-Canada.

RBC, CIBC and Scotiabank appear conspicuously throughout the database of 175,500 corporate registrations on the island nation, which has earned an international reputation as one of the most secretive financial jurisdictions in the world.

According to the data, RBC registered 847 companies, CIBC registered 632 and Scotiabank registered 481 in the Bahamas between 1990 and this past May.

The leaked records provide details behind the intimate relationship Canada's banks have forged with island tax havens over the past five decades.

> **The Bahamas is the worst of the worst.** Mark Morris

There are legitimate reasons for setting up corporations offshore in traditional tax havens. And there is no evidence of any illegal activity in the corporate registration records, which were obtained through a leak to the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ) and German newspaper Süddeutsche Zeitung and shared with the Toronto Star and the CBC.

All three banks defended their Bahamian business by saying they employ strict controls and monitor accounts to detect any sign of illegal activity.

Racial tensions flare in N.C.

Authorities tried to quell public anger and correct what they characterized as false information Wednesday after a night of looting and arson added Charlotte to the list of U.S. cities that have erupted in violence over the death of a black man at the hands of police.

With officials refusing to release any video of the shooting of 43-year-old Keith Lamont Scott, two starkly different versions emerged: Police say Scott disregarded repeated demands to drop his gun, while neighbourhood residents say he was holding a book, not a weapon, as he waited for his son to get off the school bus.

The killing inflamed racial tensions in the city.

As Charlotte's white mayor and black police chief stood at City Hall and appealed for calm, African-American leaders who said they were speaking for Scott's family held a news conference near where he was killed on Tuesday, reminding the crowd of other shootings and abuses of black men.

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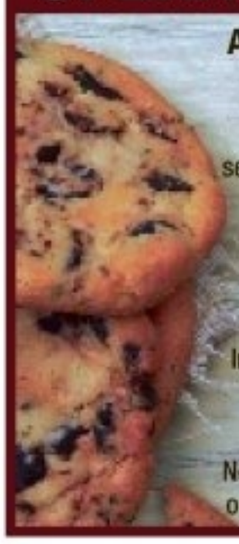

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metro VIEWS
Your essential daily news
Thursday, September 22, 2016

CHANTAL HÉBERT ON THE PM'S RETURN TO THE HOUSE

Trudeau did not have a strong message to deliver to Parliament as it gets down to fall business.

If one were to rate a prime ministerial news conference based on its shock value, the one Justin Trudeau gave on the occasion of his return to the House of Commons for the fall session of Parliament on Wednesday would not be worth grading.

Trudeau was last in the House in June. If anything has happened over the ensuing months to alter the prime minister's thinking on some of the major files the government has punted to the fall, he was not out to share that over the 20 minutes he spent answering two dozen media questions pertaining to the fall agenda.

With upcoming negotiations on health-care funding and climate change mitigation on the agenda, the federal-provincial front is expected to heat up over the next few months. Trudeau's season-opener was not designed to pre-emptively cool provincial passions.

Provinces such as Saskatchewan or Quebec, whose governments are becoming increasingly vocal in protest over federal intentions on carbon pricing in the first case and health-care funding in the other, will parse the transcript of the prime minister's news conference in vain for the shadow of an olive branch being extended in their direction.

Nor did Trudeau have a strong message to deliver to Parliament as it gets down to its fall business, except possibly to hint that MPs and senators should not expect to have more than cameo roles in the policy developments of the coming season.

In opposition, Trudeau repeatedly promised to make Parliament more relevant than it had been under his Liberal and Conservative predecessors.

He must hope the House will be a more easygoing place than it has been traditionally, for he has just handed the task of keeping the government on track in the Commons to a parliamentary rookie.

He could have used the press conference to throw a bone to the opposition parties. They have been calling for the peacekeeping mission(s) that Canada is expected to sign up for over the next few months to be put to a vote in the Commons.

But on Wednesday, the prime minister twisted himself into a pretzel to avoid providing a clear answer as to his intentions.

In theory, the latter should be a no-brainer. Jean Chrétien introduced take-note parliamentary debates (which carried no vote) on Canada's peacekeeping missions in the mid-1990s. On Stephen Harper's watch, parliamentary votes on Canada's military deployments then became a staple.

While Trudeau leads a government that has never shied away from publicizing its actions, it is also no more averse than its predecessors to doing so selectively — sometimes hiding newsworthy developments in plain sight or dumping them in the public domain in the dead zone of a late Friday afternoon.

At his news conference and in question period, the prime minister had to defend his decision to negotiate an extradition treaty with China. After his visit to China, that change in Canadian policy was publicized — without fanfare — on the government's website. It had been a long-standing Chinese demand that previous governments turned down on the basis of Beijing's poor human rights record.

On Wednesday, Trudeau gamely pointed out that Canada already had extradition arrangements with other countries — most notably the United States — that uphold capital punishment. He said his government would never agree to extradite someone who would, as a result, risk execution. He did not get into the somewhat different U.S. and China takes on what constitutes the rule of law.

If there was a point to Wednesday's news conference, beyond allowing the Prime Minister's Office to tick off a box on its media relations' to-do list, it may have been to lay out a Canadian rationale for the controversial extradition-treaty negotiations ahead of the arrival in Canada of Premier Li Keqiang later that day.

He is the first Chinese leader to come to Canada since 2010. If the issue comes up over the course of the single joint news conference of the three-day visit, Trudeau will be able to respond that the question was asked and answered.

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Cheese may not be your taste but it beats poison

Rosemary Westwood
Metro | Toronto

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's UN speech this week held two opportunities: His, to impress the world with a Canadian-branded optimism (he did), and the media's, to tear down his sunny rhetoric (they pounced).

But I have a question for all those painting the speech as "boy scout" fluff: Are you mad that it was unspecific, that it was positive, or that, in reality, Trudeau's walk is far behind his talk?

The first and last gripes are valid. The middle is not.

Sure, Trudeau's got higher-minded words than on-the ground results thus far. "No government in history has done more to repair the relationship with First Nations," Trudeau told reporters yesterday. To which Vice's Justin Ling responded: "Chill."

With the backslapping, sure. But with the goal? Of course not. Of course that should be the aspiration.

Maybe you don't believe Trudeau actually wants to make the world a better place. Maybe you don't think he can.

But for God's sake, how can you possible argue against the goal? How can you wish for a prime minister who isn't so blatantly in favour of human decency? What is supremely irritating about commentary around Trudeau's speech is not that journalists might point out where he is failing to meet his own standards; it's in their sneering suggestions that it's ridiculous to even try.

Of course you can't blindly trust any government. And in so many ways Trudeau is disappointing — in the Saudi arms deal, in long delays in bringing in refugees, in aiming no higher than Stephen Harper on climate change.

But have we no nuance? Have we lost all sense of degree? Do you really want someone running this country who doesn't believe Canadians can help the world? So why are you searching for a puke bucket when our leader says we can? Cheese might not be your favourite, but it's a lot better than poison.

Cutting down Trudeau's optimism with abandon leaves the door open for rhetoric far more perverse and far more damaging. In the U.S., reporters are struggling with the fact that in so thoroughly ripping Hillary Clinton's past to shreds they've made it harder to see that she is, despite her serious and many flaws, not even in the same stratosphere of terrifying as Donald Trump, who has received scrutiny but less than his share.

Again, it's the inability to deal in degrees. To communicate what is rotten, without suggesting that what's half-spoiled is comparable to what's already a gooey decomposing mess It's the inability to take seriously what might actually do us some good in a candidate, or leader.

Trudeau's failures are and will be well documented, as they should be. But that is no reason to cackle as we vandalize the things he is doing right.

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'Brown skin is not a costume': Disney takes heat for Moana Halloween outfit

Making the Pitch for pro sports

OPINION

New Fox series could make or break hopes of future athletes

Amber Dowling
Torstar News Service

In a world where women tennis players are often included in "Hot 100" lists and a Google Image search of the Women's National Basketball Association turns up a "pretty players" category, female athletes are still severely under-represented. Ignored, even.

Things are slowly improving. Women's soccer and hockey teams have started gaining momentum thanks to strong North American Olympic runs. There are now female coaches in the NFL and NHL. And this summer, baseball players Kelsie Whitmore and Stacy Piagno were signed to the Sonoma Stompers; the first time a woman was admitted to the MLB since three women played in the 1950s Negro Leagues.

But it's on television where real change may be happening. This fall, female athletic representation on TV kicks up a notch thanks to the new Fox series Pitch, from creators Dan Fogelman (Crazy, Stupid Love) and Rick Singer (Younger).

It premieres Thursday at 9 p.m. on Global.

The show, which is already getting a lot of pre-premiere buzz, revolves around Major League Baseball pitcher Ginny Baker (Canadian Kylie Bunbury). In the pilot she's called up to the big leagues for a highly publicized debut but gets into her own head and buckles under the massive pressure.

"It's one thing to be the team that called up the first woman," actor Mark Consuelos says in the pilot. "It's another thing to be the team that picked the wrong woman and turned this entire thing into a disaster."

The sentiment could apply to Fox itself, which took a risk investing in a series about a female ballplayer. If it tanks in the ratings, there are those who would argue that females don't belong in "male" sports in general.

It's that sort of reasoning that makes Pitch's critical and ratings success key for female athletes itching for future opportunities.

In the past there have been a small handful of series revolving around women in sport (Make It or Break It's gymnasts vying for the Olympics or the short-lived 1993 sitcom Phenom about a 15-year-old pro tennis player, for example). But they've tended to focus on teenage audiences rather than being more encompassing adult dramas. That could be why none of them have garnered the type of publicity that Pitch has received, a feat that automatically ups the ante come premiere time.

Unfortunately, the pilot does have its kinks. While Bunbury is perfectly cast as the lead and has obviously spent time nailing the mechanics of throwing a baseball, her origin story could use some work. There's too much emphasis on her father (actor Michael Beach) driving her to succeed and not enough focus her own motivations and desires. This is a woman who has supposedly grown up loving the game; it's important to showcase that joy and not drown it in a political statement.

Canadian Kylie Burnbury stars as Major League pitcher Ginny Baker in Fox's new series Pitch, which premieres Thursday at 9 p.m. CONTRIBUTED

Co-star Mark-Paul Gosselaar has done a great job ditching his Zack Morris persona thanks to a heavy beard (he's unrecognizable), but there are hints at a spark between his character and Ginny that threaten to derail the whole thing. If we're trying to get away from sexualizing female athletes, throwing a romance into the mix doesn't exactly jive. Not to mention it plays into the idea that women can't just be buddies with male teammates.

But for all the kinks, there's a solid foundation that could actually make a difference in public perception about women in sport and baseball in particular.

Pitch includes naysayers who believe women shouldn't mix with men in the pros. At the end of the first hour, the antagonists have been painted as chauvinistic and ignorant.

Having MLB behind the series helps, as it allows for the use of real uniforms and logos to lend the series authenticity. Future instalments are expected to feature cameos from real-life ball stars, something that helps build excitement with baseball fans.

Ginny Baker isn't the hero of each game (in some cases she's the goat), but she's a full-fledged team member who has become a hero to many watching her.

If this is indeed "a true story on the verge of happening," as the show's tag line suggests, having a well-rounded character at the centre can help prep an audience for a real-life milestone.

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When math is used for 'evil'

INTERVIEW

Wall Street worker sounds alarm on algorithms

Genna Buck
Metro | Toronto

Lots of people like to whine about how little they use math in real life. But in real life, math is constantly using us — or at least, our data — and most of the time, we don't even know it.

A decade ago, American math professor Cathy O'Neil left her job in academia to become a "quant" at a hedge fund, a job she says made her feel dirty.

She realized that a silent technological revolution was going on deep in computer code. Sophisticated, often secret mathematical formulas, called algorithms, are making decisions about people's lives — from employment to teacher evaluation to how long your phone company keeps you on hold.

One particularly egregious example: recidivism scores. These mathematical models use personal and demographic data to predict how likely a convict is to reoffend.

A higher score equals a longer sentence. But the data you feed the computer to get the score — like the crime rate in a person's neighbourhood, and whether they have friends and family with criminal records — varies widely by race and class.

Metro spoke to Cathy O'Neil about the "weapons of math destruction" she believes are threatening democracy and social equality.

Did you have a moment when you realized, "People are using math for evil ends"?

The light bulb moment was when this venture capitalist came to my company. He spoke about this vision of the future of advertising as this beautiful thing where people like him would get offers for trips to Aruba and he would never have to see another University of Phoenix ad (a for-profit college that's been sanctioned by the U.S. Justice Department for predatory recruitment practices), because that's not for people like him. When he said that, everyone laughed except me. I felt sick to my stomach.

Which "weapon of math destruction" was most appalling to you?

The one that kept me up at night for weeks was the recidivism risk model in the justice system. People are being sent to prison for longer because they have higher scores, which we have every reason to believe are racist. You'd have someone who was born in the wrong place, and was therefore going to jail for longer, compared to someone who was born in the right place who'd done the exact same thing.

I can see how this would create a sort of snowball ...

It's a cycle that is actually creating its own reality. You get a higher-risk score, you get a longer prison sentence. Guess what? You no longer have connections to your community. You have a felony, which means you don't get a job, your credit score is shot; you're very, very desperate.

I want individuals to feel they have the right to question algorithms that score them.
Cathy O'Neil

And then you go back to jail.

Here's what I would like to see: Look at how much higher the recidivism scores are of poor black people who've committed a certain kind of crime, compared to rich people.

Then ask why. What is it about their situation that makes their score higher?

If we thought about it that way, it wouldn't be "Your score's higher, so we're going to punish you." We'd say "Your score's higher, what's wrong with your situation that you can't get out of this loop?"

They're somehow expected to take responsibility for their score. In fact, all of these things are very much society-wide issues.

Is there a good way to use big data or is it just too blunt of an instrument?

Right now, it's too crude. But I personally am developing auditing tools to determine if an algorithm is discriminatory. (A company) will be able to say they have a resume-sorting algorithm that has been tested — and it's not doubling down on people who are already discriminated against.

Is the problem that many people don't understand, or are scared of math?

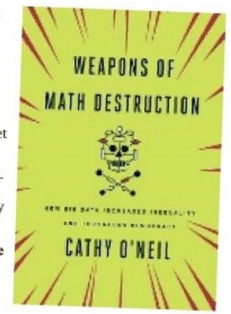
It's like a blind faith. It's somewhere between faith and intimidation. The people who know how to use math are in, like, a secret cult, and they like feeling magical. People who don't understand it never ask any questions because they feel like they're not smart enough.

Is there any point trying to keep our personal data out of big data?

I say this as an activist but not somebody who's really being targeted: No.

People who've had a constellation of bad luck are the least equipped to protect themselves.

Imagine a world where rich well-off educated people with spare time get to protect their data, but everyone else doesn't. (Through policy) we have to protect the least well-off people. My data is fine.



McBride goes back to the big, bold city

INTERVIEW

Irish writer's second novel a tale of growth and transition

Sue Carter
For Metro Canada

When Eimear McBride's debut novel A Girl is a Half-Formed Thing burst onto the scene in 2013, it was immediately lauded for its radical style and subversive story. But for McBride, this wasn't an overnight success.

Despite the international best-seller status, the critical fanfare declaring the Irish writer a modern-day James Joyce, getting this book published was no small feat. McBride was only 27 in 2003 when she completed the manuscript about a young woman's relationship with her dying brother, written in a fractured style that played with structure, grammar and narrative. Despite the stack of rejections, McBride persevered; 10 years later she found a publisher willing to take a risk on such a challenging read.

Meanwhile, in 2007, three years after completing A Girl is a Half-Formed Thing, McBride started working a new novel. She hadn't written since then; it took time to get her "writing muscles back in working order." While her first book only took six months to write, The Lesser Bohemians — which was inspired after McBride and her husband moved back to Ireland from London — took nine years. McBride, who hails from a small Irish town, was very homesick for her adopted city, and began thinking a lot about when she first arrived in London as a teenager during the 1990s to attend drama school. It was the heralded decade of "Cool Britannia," of Britpop bands like Blur and Oasis and the emergence of artists like Damien Hirst and designer Alexander McQueen.

"It was a very particular atmosphere at that time. There was a lot of things going on, a lot of change, and also for myself," McBride says. "When you're in your late teens and you move away by yourself for the first time, you have tremendous romanticism for life in the big city."

The Lesser Bohemians gets deep inside the head of 18-year-old Eilis, a teenager from a small Irish town, who after arriving in London to attend drama school, meets Stephen, an older theatre actor of some renown, and engages in a volatile love affair. Though the novel is far from autobiographical, McBride was inspired by her own memories.

"It's such a huge moment in life when you start making decisions that will affect the rest of your life and the person that you will become," she says. "It's very powerful and you're also very vulnerable, but you don't realize that until much later in life. As a teenager you have all these emotions and your mind is racing but you don't have any sense of perspective."

The Lesser Bohemians tracks the relationship between the two characters mostly through their physical relationship. Each sexual encounter is described in explicit detail, but always through Eilis' stream of consciousness, whether she is exhilarated by the experience, or devastated by jealousy. When asked about whether writing sex scenes are a challenge, McBride laughs, acknowledging the pitfalls — no author wants to end up on the Literary Review's annual Bad Sex in Fiction shortlist.

"I approached it the same way I approach everything else. I knew it had to be about the connection of the body and the internal life of the characters," she says. "Writing about physical activities is pretty run of the mill. But when the sex is there to express character, there to help the reader learn more about who these people are, then that's the point it becomes interesting."

McBride was aware that she was setting up an archetypal relationship — a naïve young woman falling for an older, sexually experienced man — but she bursts that paradigm by giving Stephen a long monologue that will both shock and build empathy, once again playing with readers' expectations. "For me, it's about finding the humanity in those situations," she says. "This is not just one of those stories, and he's not just one of those guys."

Sue Carter is the editor at Quill & Quire magazine.

Eimear McBride's new novel took her back to her own early days in London in the "Cool Britannia" era. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Full custody? Not so fast, say experts

BRANGELINA BREAKUP

Initial filing may have just been a message to Brad Pitt

California law favours joint custody of children and 15-year-old Maddox may even get to weigh in on which parent he wants to live with. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In the global hubbub over the Brangelina divorce, Angelina Jolie Pitt's demand for sole physical custody of her six children with Brad Pitt has attracted its share of the attention. Yet experts say Jolie Pitt won't have the final say, and that Pitt and the couple's eldest son, Maddox, may even have a voice in custody arrangements.

Stacy Phillips, a veteran divorce attorney, called Jolie Pitt's request for sole physical custody a "wish list," one that could change as the divorce progresses. Phillips, like many, saw the request as a message to Pitt, although what the actress is trying to convey won't be known for some time, if ever.

Pitt has yet to file his legal response to Jolie Pitt's divorce petition, but each actor released statements Tuesday indicating their children were the priority. The pair has six children, ranging in ages from 8-year-old twins Knox and Vivienne to 15-year-old Maddox.

"It's not uncommon that a person would seek sole physical custody in their initial filing," said divorce lawyer Lori Howe. "That doesn't mean it is what they will end up seeking if they resolve the case through settlement or in a courtroom. ... She very well could change her mind as well. And there's nothing to stop her from doing that, despite having checked those boxes on her petition."

California law favours joint custody of children, and judges can generally consider the opinion of children who are 14 years or older about which parent they want to live with.

Divorce lawyers, however, say the couple can avoid placing their children in the middle of a divorce if they work out an agreement in private.

"The parents should be parents, as opposed to letting the children be the parents," said Phillips, an attorney in the Los Angeles office of Blank Rome LLP. "They didn't ask for this. They need to be kept as children."

Attorney Steven Mindel said in some instances, a judge may want to know the opinion of children younger than 14 years old, but in general, courts encourage parents to work out the custody arrangements without protracted legal fights.

"You generally don't want a child testifying against a parent," Mindel said. "It's emotionally draining on the child."

Testimony doesn't have to be in a courtroom. It can be solicited by an attorney appointed to represent the child's interests, or can be done in a judge's chambers, if necessary, Mindel said.

If the actors get into a public custody fight, a judge might appoint an attorney for each of the Jolie-Pitt family's children. "If you do it strictly by the book, each child should have separate representation," said Maya Shulman, a divorce attorney who specializes in resolving difficult custody cases. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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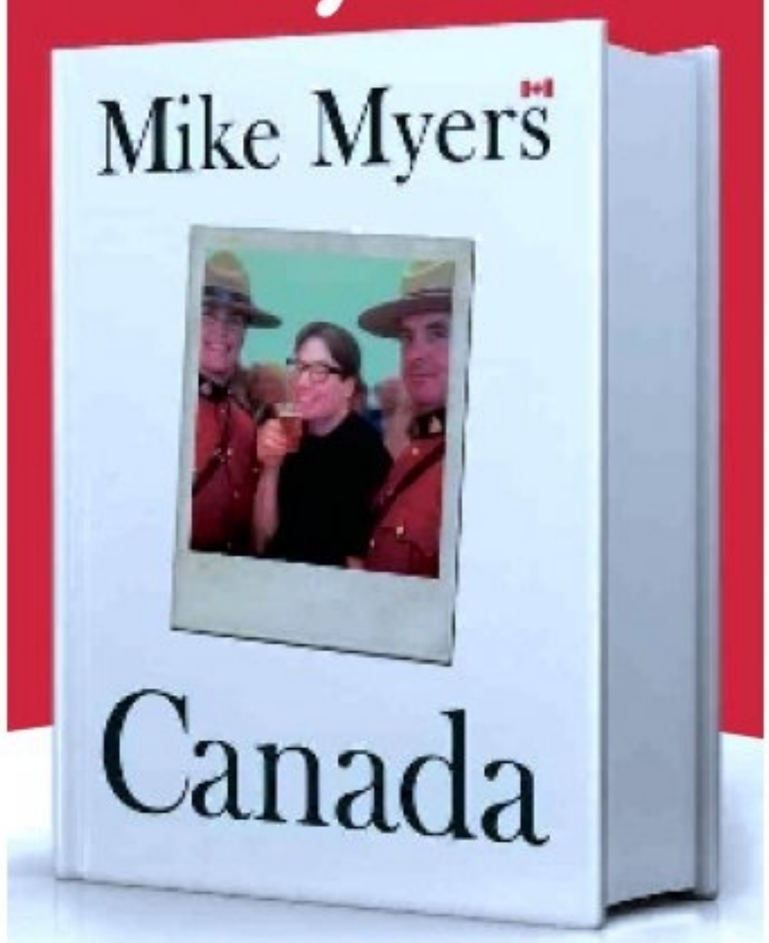

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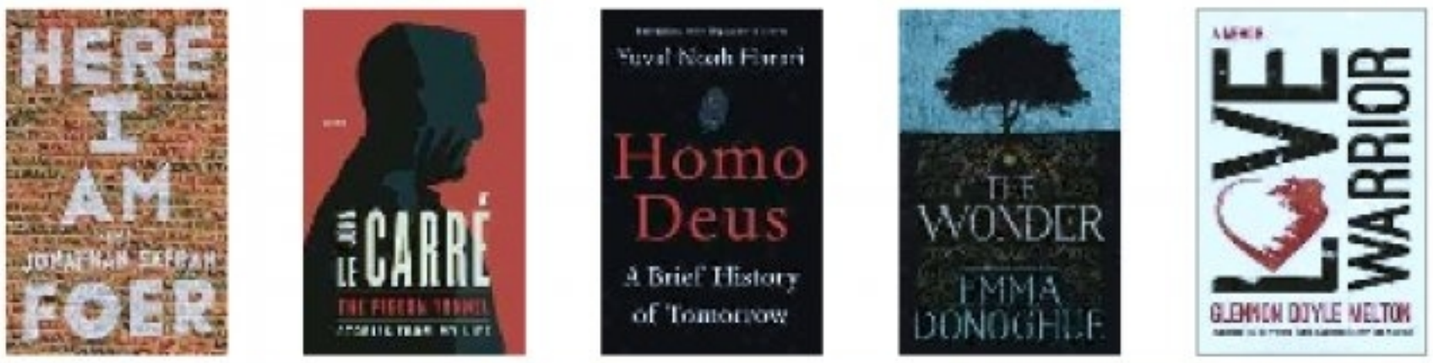

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metro HOME

Your essential daily news

The New York estate where Jackie Kennedy spent childhood summers is on sale for $39 million

MEET THE CONDO

ASTON

Contemporary design

CONTRIBUTED

Project overview

Aston by Listraor is a collection of 12 townhomes located at Oak Street and West 38th Avenue in Vancouver. There are six floorplans to choose from. Each unit has three bedrooms. Designers offer residents spacious layouts, high ceilings and expansive widows for optimal natural lighting and two colour schemes to choose from.

Housing amenities

Bedrooms have thick wool carpeting while the living areas boast engineered hardwood flooring. Kitchens feature a blend of contemporary design — including quartz countertops and Bosch stainless steel appliances — and highly functional layouts. Bathrooms have classic porcelain tile flooring and deep soaker tubs.

Location and transit

Aston is in perfect proximity to UBC, YVR airport, downtown Vancouver and everything in between. It is minutes away from public transit and the Canada Line, located at Oakridge Centre, where residents can stop and peruse brands such as Montecristo Jewellers, Michael Kors and Hugo Boss.

In the neighbourhood

Located in Vancouver's Oak Street corridor, Aston offers endless amenities. From respected schools, decadent fine dining, desirable shopping destinations and recreational facilities, this address is at the core of it all. The townhomes are close to Oak Meadow Park and VanDusen Botanical Garden.

NEED TO KNOW

What: Aston
Builder: Listraor
Designer: Raymond Letkeman Architects; Occupy Design
Location: Vancouver
Building: Townhomes
Sizes: From 1,618 sq. ft. to 1,765 sq. ft.
Model: All units have three bedrooms
Pricing: Contact sales team
Status: Selling
Occupancy: Fall 2017
Sales centre: By private appointment
Phone: 604-418-6809
Website: listraor.com/aston

MOVIES

Harry Potter's home for sale

A suburban house that starred onscreen as Harry Potter's childhood home is on the market — complete with a cupboard under the stairs.

Fans of the boy wizard will recognize 12 Picket Post Close as 4 Privet Drive, home of Harry's dastardly aunt and uncle, the Dursleys.

The couple grudgingly took Harry in after his parents were murdered and made him sleep in a cupboard under the stairs.

The house in Bracknell, 50 kilometres west of London, was a location featured in the 2001 film Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone. A studio set of the house was built for later installments of the eight-film series.

Real estate agency Chancellors says the three-bedroom house "has recently undergone complete renovation to an extremely high standard."

It's listed at a price of 475,000 pounds ($616,000 US.)

Real estate agent Paul Bosanko said "the original plan was to take this property to market without using any reference to Harry Potter."

But since news of the connection got out, interest has shot up, "and that may or may not influence the final price that we achieve at this property," Bosanko said.

Neighbour Karen Field said that the house still attracts Potter fans a decade-and-a-half after the film crews left. When the movie first came out, "there were tour buses, literally tour buses coming down the road," Field said. "It's a lot quieter now," she said. "School holidays, you still get people coming along." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The house at 12 Picket Drive is selling for $616,000 US . THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Create a space to stay organized

DIY PROJECT

Baskets, dry erase and cork boards can corral chaos

It's the time of year to get organized. You can create your own organizational hub for your family to share messages and to-do lists on a colourful dry erase board and a personalized corkboard.

All that's required is a little paint to turn a picture frame into a message board with a pop of colour to suit your decor. Use a dry erase marker to leave notes and reminders written on the glass, then easily erase with a cloth.

Hang the boards on a wall in an entryway, mud room or over a desk to create a designated space for keeping organized. Add a tray to corral everyday items such as a bowl for keys, a letter sorter and a few little accessories to help control the clutter.

TRY IT

Step 1: Gather supplies
Ensure you use a picture frame with a glass insert rather than plastic or plexi glass for this project. A dry erase marker will easily wipe off glass.

You'll need:
- Frame with glass insert
- Foam-core or foam board
- Scissors or exacto knife
- Paint
- Paintbrush
- Corkboard
- Letter Stencil
- Dry erase markers
- Push pins

Step 2: Paint foam-core
Measure a piece of foam-core to fit snugly inside the picture frame, then paint it using the paintbrush.

ORGANIZE
Add a basket or two to serve as an "outbox," perfect for library books or mail.

Step 3: Personalize corkboard
Use a stencil and paint to personalize the corkboard with your family monogram, if you have one. Or get crazy, and make one up! Add special touches that suit your family's needs. We got started with a free printable calendar from Clementine Creative and a few push pins.

Step 4: Let the paint dry
Let the paint on the corkboard and foam core dry completely. When dry insert foam core inside the frame behind the glass.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Whether at home or school, chaos can be kept in check in a number of ways. PHOTOS DEBRA NORTON/FOR TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

RETAIL

Not feeling crafty? Buy it

These organizational boards are a lot less work to get up and running. Take note of these versions that are instantly ready to keep everyone on task.

1 **Etch and Sketch Dry Erase Wall Decal** Add a playful dry erase decal to a wall available in variety of fun designs including this retro Etch and Sketch version. (Etsy.com. $59.98 / $19.95 shipping. Ready to ship in 3-5 business days.)

2 **Framed Dry Erase Board, Mint Green** Pretty vintage inspired wood framed boards add an elegant old world style to your home while still being functional pieces to keep your home organized. (Etsy.com. $252.20 / $86.74 shipping. Ready to ship in 4 to 5 weeks.)

3 **Peel and Stick Dry Erase Sheets** Removable, repositionable dry erase wall sheets make it easy to create a space to keep your family organized. (Chapters.indigo.ca. $20 / eligible for free shipping)

4 **Build Your Own Daily System** This versatile, modular system lets you build an organizational system for your wall to suit your needs. (Potterybarn.com. Prices vary depending on components — 3 pieces average approximately $215 plus shipping)

5 **Deer Head Noticeboard** Mount this deer head on your wall and pin reminders in a cool, modern style. (Etsy.com. $43.95 / $12 shipping. Ready to ship in 1 to 2 weeks.)

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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GARDENING

Built-in plant decor, displays give rooms a relaxed vibe

Green spaces for lush living

San Francisco-based integral design studio Siol Studios created this garden bathroom wall for a private residence. PAUL DYER PHOTOGRAPHY/SIOL STUDIOS VIA AP

Imagine stepping into a bathtub, and instead of bathroom tiles lining the wall next to you, there's a fresh vertical garden, lush with bright green ferns, lavender, baby's tears, mint and other fragrant plants.

San Francisco-based design studio Siol created just that a few years ago for one home.

Unusual ways to display indoor plants run the gamut, from built-in shelves and containers in and along walls, countertops or tables, to wall pockets and terrariums.

"Decorating with plants is still one of the easiest ways to make a home feel lived in and relaxed," said James Augustus Baggett, editor of Country Gardens magazine. "There are so many different ways that people can incorporate plants into a home's design."

For that living green bathroom wall, grow lights and a self-circulating drip water system were built into the 10-by-10-foot wall to promote indoor growth, said Siol co-owner and principal Jessica Weigley, 38. Lavender plants added a spa-like dash of aromatic beauty.

"We were joking that you could pick the lavender and put it into the bath with you," Weigley said. "Bringing nature indoors is huge. It still requires care and attention, like any other garden. It's just on your wall."

Of course, a full green wall is also incredibly pricy — it can cost customers at least $10,000 US, at about $100 to $200 per square foot, Weigley said, because of its embedded lighting and watering system.

A much cheaper indoor-garden alternative is pockets made of various materials — including ceramic, glass, plastic, wood, metal and even macrame — that can hang directly on a wall and be filled with plants, said Baggett. They can run about $20 to $100 each.

Easy-to-care-for indoor plants include snake plants — also known as sansevierias — with long, pointy green leaves that reach upward; dark green, cast iron plants; wall-crawling ivy; dangling spider plants; succulents, and foxtail ferns. Snake plants and cast iron plants, especially, require little light and watering. Bonsai trees, bay laurel trees and small fig trees can also be displayed indoors in both planters and partitioned floor areas padded with soil and rocks.

Those living in smaller homes can get creative: "Vertical gardening is the hottest trend for not a lot of space," said Baggett. "There's the floating shelf — a shelf that's just sticking out of the wall — and the half wall, a waist-high wall, with plants on top of it. Recessed wall niches are also popular."

Miniature gardens, from terrariums — landscapes in glass containers — to fairy gardens, have caught on for both space-conscious adults and fun-loving kids, he said.

What are fairy gardens? They're small, whimsical sceneries decorated with itsy-bitsy figurines, houses, moss, milkweed pods, pine cones and tiny plants.

Kokedama, a Japanese plant art that means "moss ball" in English, involves forming a moss-covered ball of soil around the roots of a plant and wrapping it with twine. Suspending these moss balls as hanging plants is also a trend, Baggett added.

Those with a retro esthetic can display succulents and cacti in vintage tins and decorative pottery. Moulded fiberglass bullet planters, popular in the 1950s, have also been making a comeback. The size of an ice bucket, the planter is held aloft on a three-pronged stand.

"Plant stands are handy. You're raising those plants to eye level," said Baggett. "That pulls your eye around that room. It's the same way in an outdoor garden that people use colour to pull the eye around the garden." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

1 High impact, low maintenance — The snake plant (also known as a sansevieria) seen here in a bullet planter, is one of a number of easy-to-care for options. SOLVEJ SCHOU/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

2 An ideal spot — Typically a good place for plants, a kitchen offers easy access to water and higher humidity than other rooms. Here, light-loving sedums are tucked into a custom granite well. TRIA GIOVAN/MEREDITH VIA AP

3 Organic ornaments — An assortment of terrariums, vases, jars and succulent displays bringing an otherwise ordinary corner of a home to life, creating an interior landscape in miniature. MICHAEL PARTENIO/MEREDITH VIA AP

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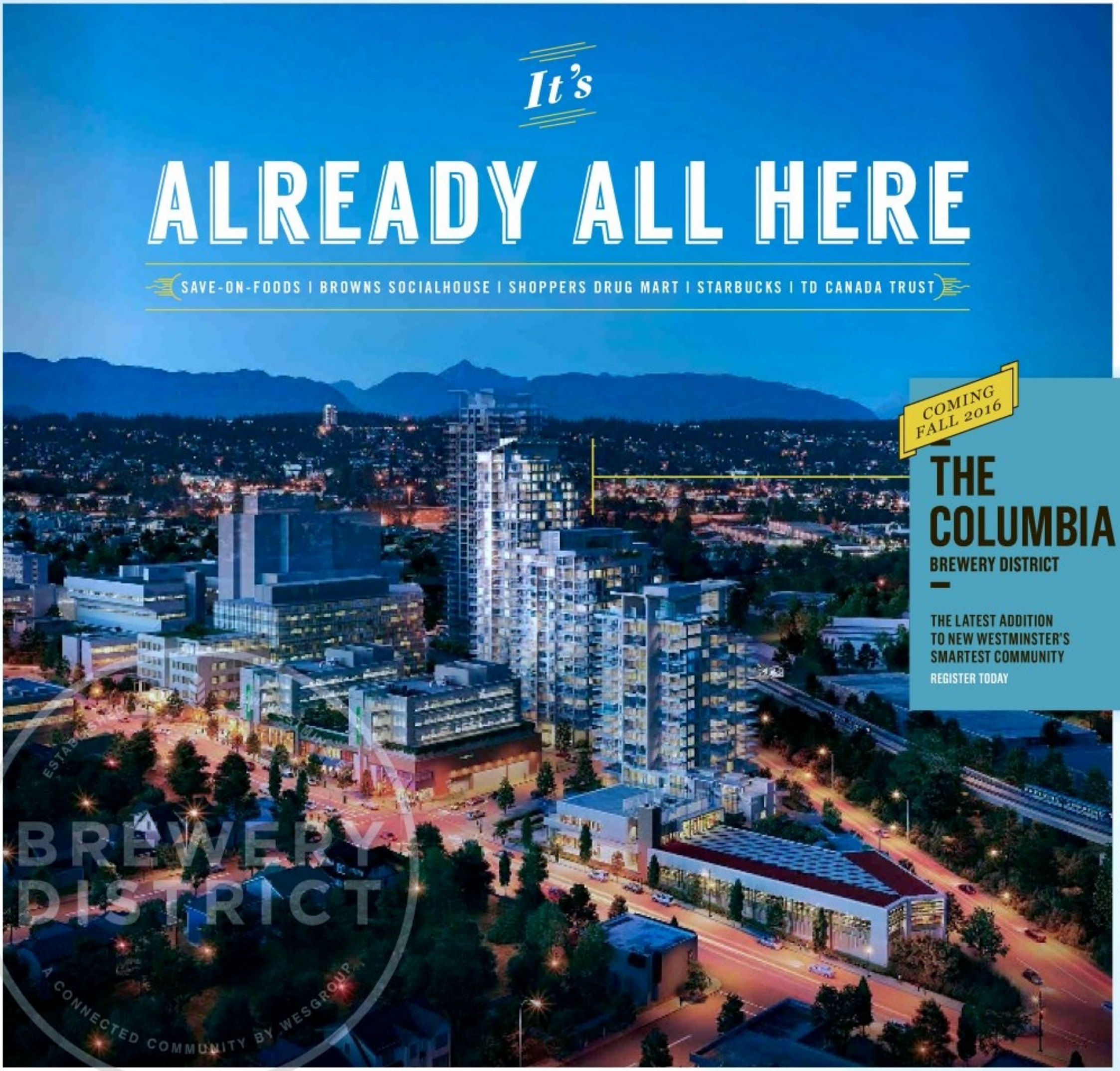

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Met exhibit looks at Shaker design

The Oval Box; American, 1800-1900. THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART /THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FURNITURE

Installation showcases influence on modern times

The Shakers, an industrious and pious New England sect that rose to prominence in the 19th century but whose membership has now dwindled from thousands to three, have long had an outsize influence on design and designers.

A new installation at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Simple Gifts: Shaker at the Met, explores Shaker furniture and textiles and their impact. The installation, which opened this summer, remains on view through June 25, 2017.

The Shakers arrived from England in 1774 and saw industriousness as a way of praising God. They embraced communal property, communal living, and racial and gender equality, all radical concepts at the time.

Their furniture, while streamlined and functional, also conveys a modern sensibility.

"They worked very hard to design their furniture according to the golden mean of proportion, and features like graduated drawers were designed using complex calculations," said Michael Graham, director of the SabbathDay Lake Shaker Museum in Gloucester, Maine, site of the only remaining Shaker community.

Their pragmatism and quest for efficiency led them to use lathes to produce turned chair spindles, and in some cases they made clothing using ready-made fabrics, said Alyce Perry Englund, assistant curator of American Decorative Arts at the Met, who curated the installation. They borrowed ideas they found useful, such as a revolving chair from 1851 that was a precursor to modern ergonomic office chairs.

The Shakers added tilting discs to chairs' back legs to make them easier to lean back in; put wheels on beds to facilitate cleaning; and used a series of pegs set in rails high on a wall to hang chairs.

The first gallery of the Met's installation focuses on Shaker furniture design and includes rocking chairs, a revolving chair and a cupboard from the 1800s.

The second gallery focuses on textiles, including a rug, bonnet and dress, alongside furniture and boxes. The big surprise here is the bright colours. Although the popular image of Shaker furniture is of natural finishes, some Shaker chests and boxes of the 19th century come in red, blue and yellow washes.

The third and final gallery features a projection of Appalachian Spring, a televised 1958 performance showing Martha Graham dancing to Aaron Copland's score, amid props by Modernist designer Isamu Noguchi. It is one of many intersections between Modernism and Shaker esthetics.

"The Shakers began selling their century-old furniture to buy more modern furniture for themselves, and to earn money for their community, just as the Modernists were searching for inspiration in their quest for spare and functional design," Michael Graham said.

Danish Modern furniture was heavily inspired by Shaker esthetics, Englund and Graham said. Both Shaker and Modernist furniture were first exhibited by major museums in New York in the 1930s, gaining popularity.

The Met's show ends with a video by contemporary sculptor Tom Sachs, famous for assemblages of computers and other technology, who explains the deep connection he feels with Shaker ideals.

Shaker furniture continues to be widely popular, and today's tiny Shaker community welcomes dozens of people to their services, and has recently begun to contract locally to make pieces according to their specifications.

Maine-based Chilton Furniture, owned by Jennifer and Jared Levin, produces a chair made to exact 1830 Shaker specifications called the Alfred Chair, with design and production approved by the Shakers.

"The Shakers were so very modern in their approach. And there's definitely a resurgence of interest in Shaker and Shaker-inspired pieces. There's something timeless about it," Jennifer Levin said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Alfred Chair, produced by Maine-based Chilton Furniture.
TUEMMLER/STRETCH STUDIO/CHILTON FURNITURE VIA AP

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MORTGAGES

How to create a garden to fall for

It may be September, but there's plenty that can be done to keep a garden going into the fall. ISTOCK

GREENSPACE

Planting, pruning, composting are all key

Mark Cullen
For Torstar News Service

The kids are safely ensconced in school, but the yard and garden look neglected. Fear not: this is a great time of year to bring new life to your green spaces.

I am here to help.

Plant

I have planted most of my permanent gardens in the early fall. If you were a plant, you would understand: evening temperatures are dropping and there will be one last push of growth on most shrubs and evergreens.

Roses will put on one more show of colour before they go dormant. When you plant in September and early October, you introduce roots to soil at the ideal time of year. Trees, shrubs, evergreens and perennials put down new roots before the hard frosts of late autumn.

Prune

Now is a great time to prune a cedar hedge (one of the most-asked questions on my website). It is easy to do with a sharp pair of garden shears.

A haircut now will encourage one last spurt of new growth that will fill the plants in nicely. September is an excellent month to prune junipers, yews (taxus) and boxwood, as well.

Thicken and green up your lawn

After a long, dry summer your lawn may look tired and full of brown patches. To bring it back to life, apply a quality slow-release nitrogen product with iron for best results now. Later in the fall, in late October or November, apply a quality fall lawn food to strengthen it for the winter season ahead.

While you're at it, overseed bare patches. Rake out dead grass, spread lawn soil or triple mix over the area about five to seven centimetres thick. Spread quality grass seed over the area by hand, rake smoothly with a fan rake and step on it with flat-soled shoes to put the soil and seed in firm contact. Water thoroughly until germinated.

Dig and divide

Have a hosta that has outgrown its space? A monarda/bee balm that has moved where it is not wanted? The Shasta daisies that are pushing up where they don't belong? Dig them up now, divide them into smaller portions and replant them around the yard. Or give them away to friends and neighbours. On the other hand, there are many "perennial plant exchanges" in every community: why not take part? Trade in your unwanted perennials for some new, better behaved ones. Check out community events at your local library or horticultural club. Note: when replanting divisions, prepare the soil well with plenty of compost and water them well.

Compost

Speaking of compost, this is compost season. If you don't have a composting unit, consider buying or building one. If you do have one, empty it onto existing soil in your garden where earthworms will make a meal of it and leave behind nitrogen-rich castings. Or you can turn it under with a shovel, if you are feeling ambitious. When you place raw material, such as kitchen scraps and soft-tissue yard waste into your composting unit, mix it up and add some composted cattle manure to introduce beneficial bacteria and microbes.

Reflect

While our gardens peaked about a month ago, there is still a lot of colour out there to enjoy. Walk around your neighbourhood, local parks and public gardens and observe what is going on there. Are there plants that appeal to you? Garden design concepts? Unusual trees or shrubs? If you want to take this further, I encourage you to call a garden designer this time of year. They are generally not as busy now as they were in the spring and have more time to focus on your ideas and questions about your garden.

Mark Cullen is an expert gardener, Order of Canada recipient, author and broadcaster. Get his free monthly newsletter at markcullen.com. Follow him on Twitter @MarkCullen4 and on Facebook.

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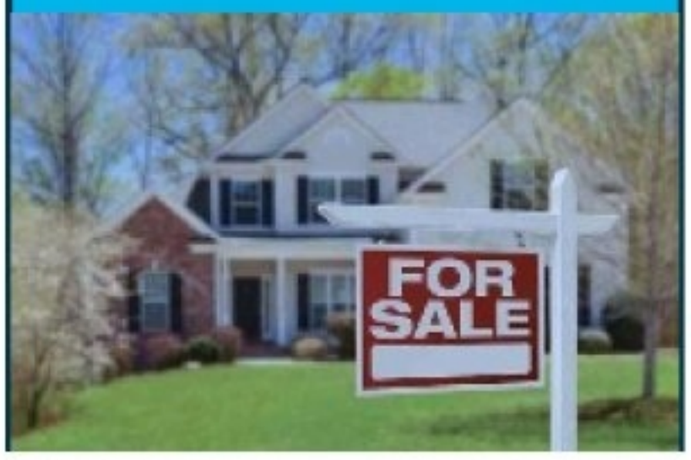

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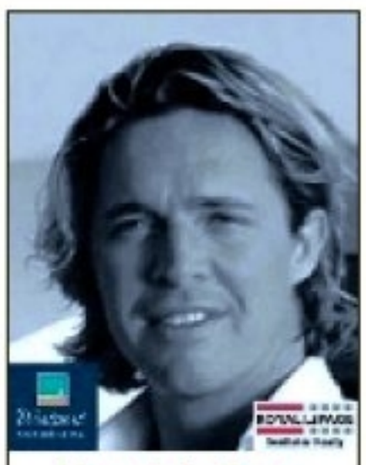

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Mariners restore order at Safeco Field

MLB

Seattle takes down Toronto in 12th inning

Robinson Cano finally quieted the sea of blue-clad Toronto fans that had turned Safeco Field into a home environment for the Blue Jays.

Cano delivered a sacrifice fly in the 12th inning as the Seattle Mariners avoided a sweep with 2-1 victory over Toronto on Wednesday, preventing the Blue Jays from extending their wild-card lead.

"We've got to keep fighting," said Cano, as the Mariners won for the second time in six games to remain on the edge of the playoff chase. "Keep fighting, but at the same time, have fun. Not put pressure on us that we must win. Just play our game and keep battling."

Knuckleballer R.A. Dickey (10-15), who pitched five scoreless innings in his last start on Friday, came in on the 12th for his first relief appearance after 29 starts.

Guillermo Heredia reached on a two-base throwing error by third baseman Josh Donaldson to open the 12th. Ben Gamel followed with an attempted sacrifice bunt, and first baseman Ryan Goins appeared to throw out Heredia at third, but the ball popped out of Donaldson's glove on the tag.

"I thought it was a risky play, but I felt we had to do it, because it was important for us to win the ball game," Heredia said through a translator. "As soon as I was at second base, I made up my mind that if he bunted the ball on the ground, regardless of where it was going, I was going to go to third base."

The Mariners congratulate Robinson Cano on driving in the winning run against the Blue Jays on Wednesday. OTTO GREULE JR/GETTY IMAGES

WEDNESDAY In Seattle

2	1
MARINERS	BLUE JAYS

Cano then followed with a run-scoring fly to left, quieting the decidedly pro-Blue Jays crowd, bolstered for the third straight game by thousands of fans from western Canada.

Nick Vincent (4-4) pitched two scoreless innings for the win.

"It was just one of those things where we made a couple mistakes and that generally happens most times in extra-inning games," Toronto manager John Gibbons said.

After being blanked on two hits for eight innings, the Blue Jays tied it in the ninth on Jose Bautista's 19th home run, a one-out solo shot to left off hard-throwing rookie closer Edwin Diaz.

5

Toronto is five games back of AL East-leading Boston after the Red Sox beat Baltimore 5-1.

Seattle starter Felix Hernandez allowed two hits in seven innings, striking out four and walking three in a 112-pitch outing.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WORLD CUP OF HOCKEY

Canada emerges as the top dog

Jonathan Toews scored a pair of goals and added an assist as Team Canada easily rolled past Europe 4-1 on Wednesday evening in their final preliminary-round game of the World Cup of Hockey.

Canada clinched Group A with the victory and will face either Team North America or Russia in the first semifinal on Saturday night.

Sidney Crosby and Logan Couture also scored and Corey Crawford made 19 saves.

Canada outshot Europe 46-19.

Marian Hossa scored the only goal for Europe and Jaroslav Halak stood tall with 42 stops.

Heavy favourites entering the tournament, Canada has met expectations thus far, stomping three foes en route to the semis. They outscored the Czechs, Americans and Europeans by a combined 14-3, trailing only once and for less than two minutes. All but two players have produced at least a point, led by Crosby and Matt Duchene with four points apiece.

North America 4, Sweden 3

Earlier Wednesday, Nathan MacKinnon scored in overtime as North America beat Sweden 4-3.

Sweden overcame an early two-goal deficit to clinch first place in Group B and a spot in the semifinals by getting to overtime and earning a single point.

North America can still advance, but has to wait for the outcome of Thursday's final Group B game between Russia (1-1-0) and Finland (0-2-0).

THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

T-Wolves in talks to buy out Garnett, source says

A person with knowledge of the situation tells The Associated Press that the Minnesota Timberwolves are working on a buyout with Kevin Garnett.

The two sides have been engaged in talks for some time. When completed it will assure that Garnett will not return to the Wolves' roster next season.

The 40-year-old Garnett is under contract for $8 million next season.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Peterson requires surgery

Adrian Peterson will have surgery on his right knee to repair a torn meniscus, putting his season and perhaps his 10-year run with Minnesota in question.

Adrian Peterson
GETTY IMAGES

But the Vikings have held off for now on placing the franchise's all-time leading rusher on injured reserve. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Vancouver metro

RECIPE Black Bean Burger

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

We love this recipe for two main reasons: it uses the pantry staple of a can of black beans and it's full of flavour. OK, one more reason: It's fast.

Ready in 20 minutes
Prep time: 10 minutes
Cook time: 10 minutes
Serves 4

Ingredients
- 2 x 14 oz cans of black beans, rinsed
- 1/4 cup of panko or regular bread crumbs
- 2 tsp cumin
- 1 tsp dried oregano
- 1/4 tsp cayenne
- 1 egg
- 1/4 cup fresh cilantro
- 3 Tbsp oil

Directions

1. Place 1 can of beans, panko, cumin, oregano, cayenne and egg into a blender. Pulse it together until it forms a goopy paste.

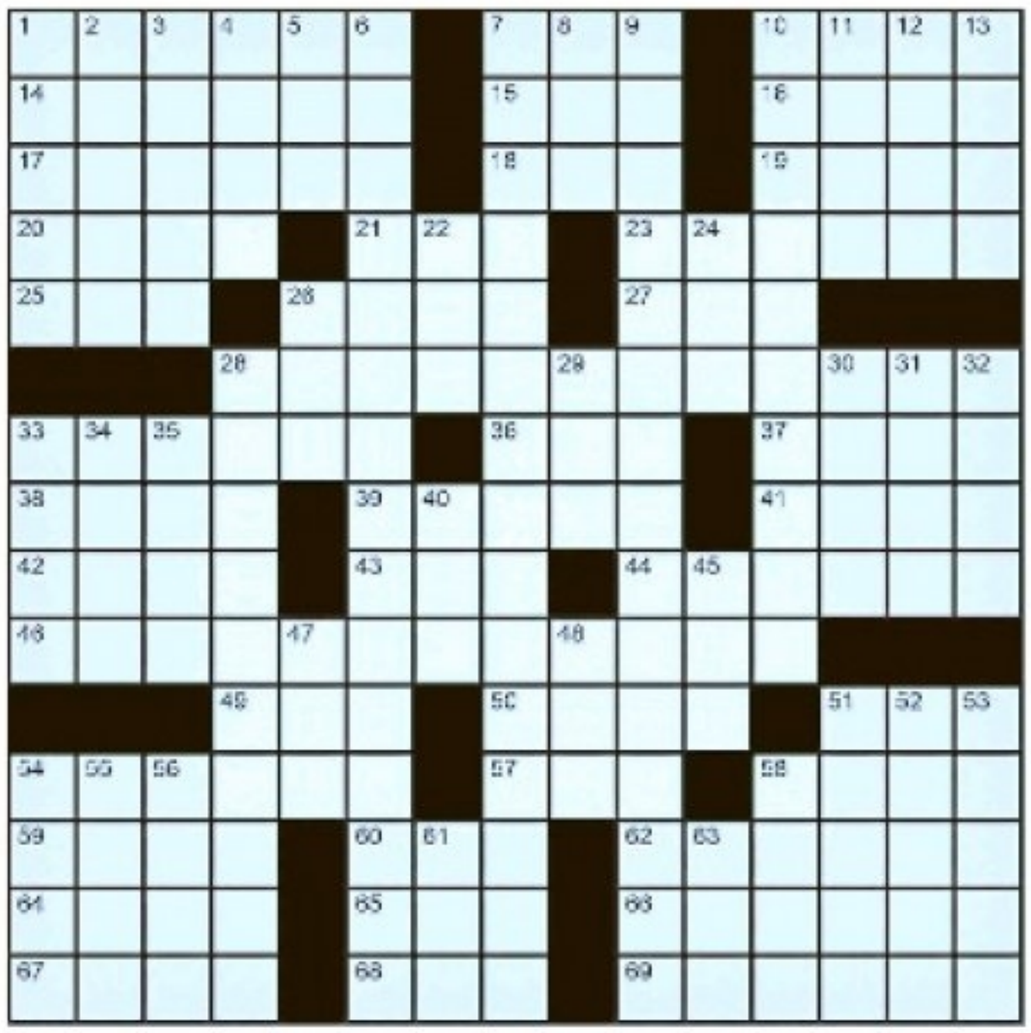
2. Empty the blender contents into a bowl. Stir in the other can of beans and the cilantro. Use your hands to form into patties. Don't make them too big or you'll have hard time with flipping.

3. Heat oil in a pan to medium then gently place patties in. Cook for 5 minutes — without touching! — then carefully flip with a thin, flexible spatula. Cook for another 5 minutes on the other side. Serve on a bun with your favourite toppings, like tomato, avocado, lettuce, salsa, spicy mayo.

FOR MORE MEAL IDEAS, VISIT SWEETPOTATOCHRONICLES.COM

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. "All She Wrote" up-and-coming Canadian brothers country duo
7. Image filename extension
10. Fizzling-out sound...
14. Town in Ontario's York Region
15. Irish actor Stephen
16. Hawaii: All-vowels locale on Oahu
17. Snowshoe remnants
18. "Hmmm...", Brit-style
19. Pan brand
20. Mr. Cruise's
21. Affiliation
23. Barry Manilow's "_ _ the Songs"
25. Web connector [abbr.]
26. Country singer Faith
27. Singer Mr. Sayer
28. University of Toronto teams name: 2 wds.
33. "This is how to do it...": 2 wds.
36. Alphabetic trio
37. Purge
38. Power [abbr.]
39. "Push It" by Salt-_-_
41. O'_ (Canadian actress Catherine)
42. Taj Mahal's site
43. Lay the yard's rolls
44. Neptune moon
46. Item on a having-a-big-breakfast table: 2 wds.
49. Movie franchise number
50. Barbershop service
51. Hailed ride
54. "_ Be the Day" by The Crickets
57. Cape Town's home [acronym]
58. Angela's mom on "Who's the Boss?"
59. Do, _, _...
60. Papua New Guinea seaport
62. "Mad About You" star Paul
64. Marie-Francoise's friend
65. Dutch city
66. Meg Ryan to Tom Hanks, in movies
67. Pea 'packages'
68. Permanent skin drawing, hip-style
69. It separates Haida Gwaii and mainland BC, _ Strait

DOWN
1. Broadway star Ms. LuPone
2. Overseas moneys
3. "Lady and the _" (1955)
4. Mythological flyers
5. Gall
6. Hardy kitchen pan: 3 wds.
7. Lovely sight in a quaint neighbourhood, _-_ _
8. Suffix with 'Hotel'
9. Ottawa-born star Lorne Greene's character of Ben Cartwright on "Bonanza": 2 wds.
10. Canada vessels project... AOPS = Arctic/Offshore _ _
11. Minnie Mouse's pet dog
12. Achievement
13. Story
22. Elles opposites
24. Network
26. Owns
28. Truthfulnesses
29. Pinnacle
30. "I got _ _..." (When the morning riser rose)
31. Architect Mr. Saarinen
32. Beautiful bird
33. Ballet bounce
34. Ms. Swenson of "Benson"
35. Jerome of stage shows
40. 'P' in literary monogram EAP
45. _ and Coke
47. Be out of sorts
48. Calendar spans [abbr.]
51. _ Rica
52. Keep _ _ home (Regularly tidy the house)
53. Ballet class handrail
54. Snare
55. Prefix with 'globin'
56. In the crowd
58. Assorted [abbr.]
61. US teeth docs org.
63. Fair-hiring letters

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
In the next four weeks, you will need more sleep. This also is a good time to learn more about your style of relating to those who are closest to you.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Do whatever you can to get better organized in the next four weeks, because you want to be efficient, productive and effective in everything you do. This is your plan.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Grab every opportunity to take a vacation or play in the next few weeks. Enjoy lighthearted times with children, sports events and the arts.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Home and family will be your primary focus in the month ahead. Redecorating projects will particularly appeal.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Short trips, increased reading and writing plus conversations with siblings and relatives will characterize the next month. You'll be busy!

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Think of ways to boost your income in the next month, because you will certainly do this now and in the next two years. Ideas? Write them down.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
During the next four weeks, you have a chance to recharge your batteries for the rest of the year. You also will attract important people and favorable situations to you.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Start to plan what you want your new year (birthday to birthday) to be all about. You have one month to do this. Write down some goals with deadlines.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Enjoy increased popularity in the next few weeks while you schmooze with friends. Many of you will join clubs, groups and associations as well.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
This is the one time of year when you look really great to your bosses. Use the next four weeks to demand the advantage and get permission for something you want to do.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Take advantage of any opportunity to travel or get further training and education during the next four weeks, because you want to expand your world! Go, go, go!

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Do what you can to wrap up loose details about inheritances and shared property in the next few weeks. You will accomplish this quite easily.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

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			9		1			
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	6		2					9
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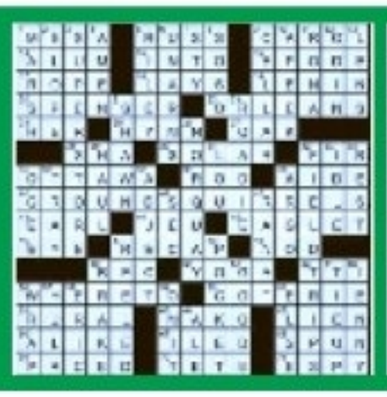

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3	5	4	7	8	1	6	9	2
8	1	6	9	2	4	5	3	7
7	2	9	6	5	3	4	1	8

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Melody M. – Kamloops BC

Steven L. – Vancouver BC

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12

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